Info Session - LLM-BRIDGE - Venture Incubation Programme - Open Call for Incubators – 2nd Call

3 November 2026

Co-funded by the European Union

The LLM-BRIDGE project is co-funded by the European Union's Digital Europe Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101226136.

LLM Booster for Regional Innovation and Digital Growth in Europe

The LLM Booster for Regional Innovation and Digital Growth in Europe project (LLM-BRIDGE) supports startups and scaleups in the fast-growing domain of Large Language Models.

LLM-BRIDGE aims to **strengthen national GenAI ecosystems** by equipping startups, scaleups, incubators and investors with the support needed to **build and deploy LLM-driven products**.

10 partners

Duration
Sept 2025 – August 2028

•LLM-BRIDGE has received funding from the European Union's Digital Europe Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101226136. The project started on 1 September 2025, for a duration of three years.

Co-funded by the European Union

European LLMs for Digital Sovereignty

The LLM-BRIDGE project aims to connect **research, innovation, and market deployment** by linking:

Technical excellence

i.e. HPC resources, data spaces, and benchmark infrastructures

Entrepreneurial capacity-building

i.e. venture incubation and acceleration programmes

LLM-BRIDGE's programmes for support

Stay tuned for more information on FSTP calls

Venture Incubation Program

Start-ups and Incubators
·3 cohorts – 2nd Open Call for Incubators (deadline 28th Nov 2026) – startup cohort in 2027

Acceleration Program

Start-ups aiming at Series A funding
·2 cohorts

Entrepreneurial Education

Pre-seed and seed start-ups
· 4 cohorts

FUNDING DESCRIPTION

100%



Funding

The funding is provided to enable one selected incubator to design and implement one 12-week incubation cycle supporting at least 30 early-stage ventures in Generative AI (GenAI) and Large Language Models (LLMs).
The funding will be used to cover mentoring, training, coordination, access to technical resources, reporting, and the organisation of onboarding, the mid-term review and the LLM-BRIDGE Demo Day, following the framework set out in the call document and its Annexes.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Maximum fixed lump sum of EUR 60,000. No indirect costs or additional cost reimbursement are provided.

Startup travel and accommodation costs are not covered.

The requested funding may cover **100%** of the total activity budget, up to a maximum of **EUR 60,000.**

Financial support is granted as a **fixed lump-sum contribution tied to verified milestones, deliverables and KPIs.** The incubator will need to sign a Third-Party Agreement (TPA) defining objectives, activities, budget ceiling, and reporting requirements.

How to participate



Submission, evaluation process & funding details

Submission Deadline

HARD DEADLINE

28 November 2026

17:00 CET (Brussels Time)

Evaluation Process

1. **Eligibility Check**
   Admissibility & eligibility (Section 5.1); notice in 15 working days
2. **Independent Evaluation**
   At least two experts; 6 criteria, max 42 points, threshold 26
3. **Consensus Meeting**
   Experts consolidate evaluations and scores
4. **Panel Ranking & Final Validation**
   Final ranked list and reserve list

Results & Start

Results Feb 2027 ▪ SGA signature Mar 2027 ▪ Activities start Apr 2027

Payment Schedule

40%	60%
Mar ‘27 (TPA)	Aug ‘27 (final rep.) KPIs verified (Sept ‘27)

Submission

https://share.hsforms.com/133VDDomZReqeyGTex0VYRwf4os

English Language

Valid PIC; 3+ years of incubation experience

Questions?

Reach out to the team for clarification before the deadline.

contact@llm-bridge.eu

Program structure



12-week journey from prototype to market (MVP)

Training & Mentoring

WEEKS 2-11

Mentoring, training and business development, with access to LLM models, data spaces and HPC resources, to shape the value proposition and achieve market and investment traction.

Mentoring Workshops

Bootcamp & Demo Day

WEEKS 1 & 12

Onboarding at bootcamp, ending with LLM-BRIDGE Demo Day

Timing

Kick-off **Apr 2027, Demo Day Jun–Jul 2027**

Cohort Size

At least **30 GenAI/LLM startups** in the 2027 cohort.

Payments

- 40% at TPA signature, 60% after KPIs verified
- **Support in reaching out to teams**

Venture Incubation Program – Program

Scope

- The selected incubator delivers the 12-week programme (onsite, online or hybrid, in English) through group workshops, consultations with external experts, regular work with assigned mentors and work of startups on their solutions and business models.

- The topics of the individual program week examples (non-exhaustive list):
  - Customer segmentation and validation
  - Business model and business model validation
  - GenAI / LLM model design, data spaces and HPC resources
  - Ethics and regulation (AI Act, GDPR, Data Act)
  - Sources of funding for start-ups
  - Developing the entrepreneurial team
  - Communication and Pitching
  - Marketing
  - Sales
  - The next steps (incorporation, follow on investors, access to public and other sources of funding etc)
  - Building sales competencies

LLM-BRIDGE Demo Day: Pitching style event where teams have the chance to validate their business solution by presenting it in front of early-stage tech investors, potential clients, and experts from the tech community.

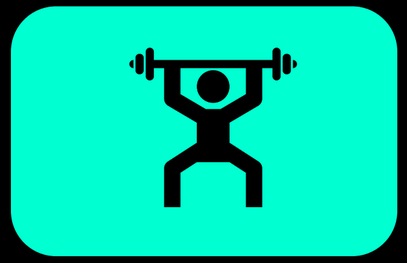
Venture Incubation Program – for Startups

- Delivered by the selected incubator for at least 30 GenAI startups
- From prototype to validated MVP in 12 weeks
- Hone your entrepreneurial skills
- Create your MVP
- Establish your GenAI / LLM venture
- Get access to LLM models, data spaces and HPC resources
- Get business development help from top international experts
- Find a first investor
- Join Europe's leading innovation ecosystem

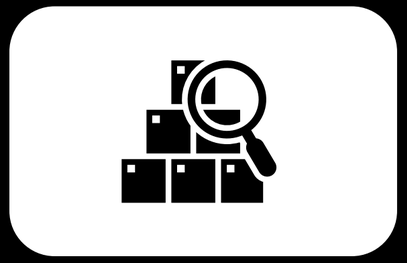


OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR STARTUPS

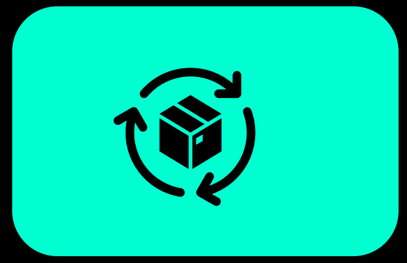
LLM-BRIDGE



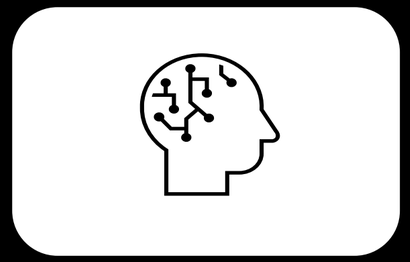
Active participation



MVP validation



Market testing



GenAI focus

D E L I V E R A B L E S !

2B DGTL

HOW TO APPLY

How to submit your LLM-BRIDGE VIP – 2nd Call for Incubators proposal online by 28 Nov 2026, 17:00 CET.



Create Your Proposal

Register, complete the online form and upload your proposal using the Annex D.4 template. It must present a 12-week programme (onsite, online or hybrid) for at least 30 GenAI startups.

Submission Checklist

- Check eligibility (Section 5.1)
- Complete Annex D.4 proposal
- Submit online by 28 Nov 2026

Cover Page & Declarations

Applicant details and signed declarations

Budget Summary

Total budget up to EUR 60,000 (fixed lump sum)

Six Evaluation Questions

Relevance, track record, networks, adaptability, monitoring, cost effectiveness

INNOVATION ACTIVITY SPECIFICS

Describe the concrete activities, expertise, and approach your organisation brings to support early-stage GenAI startups

Provide evidence of past performance, such as number of startups supported, incorporation, MVP development, funding raised, or market entry.

Describe the networks and access your organisation provides to supported startups, including mentors, investors, industry partners, and ecosystem actors, and explain how startups access these in practice.

Provide concrete examples demonstrating flexibility and responsiveness to change.

Please describe the monitoring and reporting processes your organisation will use to track startup progress and programme performance during the Venture Incubation Programme.

Explain what is monitored, how often progress is reviewed, and how results are reported.

Explain how the proposed budget is structured and how it ensures cost-effective delivery and value for money for the Venture Incubation Programme.

Describe how resources are allocated and why the budget is appropriate for the proposed activities.





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